



State of Idaho Military Division **Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security**

**Joint Force Public Affairs Office
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News Release

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Idaho National Guard deployed to aid Texas

Nine members of the Idaho Army National Guard and Idaho Air National Guard left for Texas this morning after Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter declared a State of Emergency in anticipation of Hurricane Ike making landfall along the Gulf Coast.

These citizen soldiers and citizen airmen are communications technicians who are trained in a specialized National Guard communications system known as the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability.

Texas asked for Idaho assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). This is an interstate mutual aid compact among all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The compact facilitates the efficient and effective sharing of resources, personnel and equipment across state lines during times of disaster and emergency.

"I am proud Idaho can help the people of Texas during this emergency," Governor Otter said. "The communications team will provide much-needed assistance and expertise. The opportunity highlights the Idaho National Guard's readiness to serve."

"Those nine folks deploying in support of the Texas emergency clearly demonstrate Idaho's professionalism and preparedness" said Major General Lafrenz, Idaho's Adjutant General.

Col. Bill Shawver, Director of Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security said. "Idaho continues to set the example when our nation, our state, or others are in need. States helping states is the cornerstone of emergency response when local and state resources are strained."

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